

**REGULAR MEETING OF
DIRECTORS OF BELMONT FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**

Tuesday, October 12, 2004

CALL TO ORDER 7:35

ROLL CALL

Directors Present: Mathewson, Warden, Feierbach, Bauer, Metropulos

Directors Absent: None

Staff Present: Interim District Manager Rich, City Attorney Savaree, Community Development

Director Ewing, Public Works Director Davis, District Secretary Cook.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Led by District Secretary Cook.

PUBLIC/DIRECTORS COMMENTS

Interim District Manager Rich introduced Chuc Lowden, the new Fire Chief for South County Fire. He noted that Chief Lowden is not new to the agency, as he was SCFA's Chief a several years ago.

Chief Lowden commented that he appreciated the trust of the South County Fire Board by inviting him to once again serve in this position, and he looked forward to the challenge of the assignment. He acknowledged that the South County Fire Authority has experienced difficulties in recent months, and he pledged to bring a turnaround to the agency. He invited the public to contact him if they had any questions or concerns.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Approval of Minutes of Special Meeting of August 10, 2004.

Motion Accepting Financial Report for the Belmont Fire Protection District FY 03-04.

ACTION: On a motion by Director Mathewson, seconded by Director Warden, the Consent Calendar was unanimously approved by a show of hands.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

Discussion and Direction Regarding Potential Fire Assessment and Other Fire Related Matters

Finance Director Fil outlined the options available relative to a mail-in ballot for a potential assessment for fire services. He reviewed the multi-year proforma for the various options available, and noted that the staff recommended Scenario 2, which included the restoration of a fifth engine company. He noted that the Special Fire Finance Subcommittee had completed its analysis, and would be presenting its findings to the South County Fire Authority Board in November, and to the Fire Protection Directors at a special meeting in December. He added that this report should assist with decisions regarding the assessment.

In response to Directors' questions, Finance Director Fil clarified that under either option, the assessment of the tax would not begin until next fiscal year, so there is no impact to waiting to initiate the mail-in ballot. He also clarified that the timeline under Scenario 2 is tight, but could be done. He noted that the data analysis is being developed concurrent to the creation of the assessment, which will be available prior to the mailing of the ballots. He also stated that if the data is available sooner, the schedule could be adjusted.

Director Warden stated there was not a great deal of difference between the two timelines, since no monies would be received prior to the next fiscal year's tax roll, so he did not see a reason to rush the process. He also noted that there was no direction from the South County Fire Authority regarding service levels, which would generate the need for a specific assessment amount.

Finance Director Fil responded that the schedule would allow sufficient time to develop a unique and separate proforma for the Belmont Fire Protection District for this assessment.

ACTION: On a motion by Director Bauer, seconded by Director Feierbach, Fire Suppression Assessment Balloting Timeline Scenario 2 (May ballot, July results) was unanimously approved by a show of hands.

ADJOURNMENT at this time, being 7:50 P.M.

Meeting tape-recorded and videotaped
Tape No. 591

Terri Cook
District Secretary